

LISTING OF CLAIMS

The listing of claims provided below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

5 1. (Currently Amended) A method for launching remote test applications in a distributed test framework, comprising ~~the operation of:~~

~~using a first agent process having an agent launcher interface to launch~~ launching
a first test application ~~program~~ having a call interface ~~using a first agent process having~~
~~an agent launcher interface~~, wherein the call interface provides a reference to the first
10 agent process such that the first test application ~~program~~ and the first agent process
communicate ~~communicates~~ with each other during execution of the first test application;

 sending a launch request from the first test application to the agent launcher
interface of the first agent process using the reference to the first agent process as
provided by the call interface of the first test application, wherein the launch request
15 specifies a second test application to be launched, and wherein the launch request defines
required attributes of ~~[[a]]~~ an unidentified processing resource necessary to execute the
second test application thereon; and

operating the agent launcher to send a request to a system controller requesting
identification of a processing resource having the required attributes necessary to execute
20 the second test application;

operating the system controller to identify the processing resource having the
required attributes necessary to execute the second test application; and

 launching the second test application on the identified ~~[[a]]~~ processing resource
having the attributes defined in the launch request.

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2. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the second test application is launched by a second agent process executing on the identified processing resource.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the second agent process is registered with a look up service, the registering being configured to advertise the attributes of the identified processing resource to the system controller via the look up service.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 3 [[4]], wherein the system controller is configured to search the look up service to locate a processing resource having attributes substantially matching the attributes defined in the launch request.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the second test application includes a second call interface, and the second call interface ~~further~~ includes a parameters hash table that provides initialization ~~initial~~ values for the second test application.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the agent launcher interface of the first agent process further includes ~~initial~~ parameters that provide initialization ~~initial~~ values for the second test application.

8. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the initialization ~~initial~~ values provided by the ~~initial~~ parameters of the agent launcher interface of the first agent process can be passed to the second call interface via the parameters hash table of the second call interface of the second test application.

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9. (Currently Amended) A system for launching remote test applications in a distributed test framework, comprising:

a first agent process executing on a first processing resource, wherein the first agent process includes an agent launcher interface; and

10 a first test application ~~program~~ having a call interface that provides a reference to the first agent process such that the first test application ~~program~~ and the first agent process communicate ~~communicates~~ with each other during execution of the first test application, wherein the first test application is capable of sending a launch request to the agent launcher interface of the first agent process using the reference to the first agent
15 process, the launch request specifying a second test application to be launched and defining required attributes of a second processing resource without specifically identifying the second processing resource.

10-12. (Cancelled)

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13. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 9 ~~[[12]]~~, further comprising:

a system controller in communication with the first agent process, the system controller defined to receive a processing resource identification request from the agent
25 launcher interface of the first agent process, the system controller further defined to

search a look up service to identify a processing resource having the required attributes defined in the launch request ~~and the second agent process.~~

14. (Cancelled)

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15. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 13 [~~14~~], wherein the second test application includes a second call interface, and the second call interface further includes a parameters hash table that provides initialization ~~initial~~ values for the second test application.

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16. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the agent launcher interface of the first agent process further includes ~~initial~~ parameters that provide initialization ~~initial~~ values for the second test application, wherein the initialization ~~initial~~ values ~~provided by the initial parameters of the agent launcher interface of the first agent process~~ can be passed to the second call interface via the parameters hash table of the second call interface.

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17. (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for launching remote test applications in a distributed test framework, comprising:

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a code segment that receives a reference to a first agent process, wherein the reference can be utilized to access the first agent process during execution;

a code segment that receives initialization parameters for a test ~~an~~ application, wherein the initialization parameters can be used to set initial values for specific parameters of the test application; and

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a code segment that calls an agent launcher interface of the agent process using the reference, wherein a request to launch a second test application is sent to the agent launcher interface, and wherein required attributes of an unidentified [[a]] processing resource necessary to execute the second test application are passed to the agent launcher process.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer program as recited in claim 17, wherein the required attributes are utilized to select a processing resource having substantially matching attributes to execute the second test application.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer program as recited in claim 18, wherein the selected processing resource is selected from a list of processing resources advertised on a look up service.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer program as recited in claim 19, wherein the selected processing resource includes a second agent process, and wherein the second agent process launches the second test application.